

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 36-69, 71, 72, 75 and 77-83 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12, 15, 19, 20, 71 and 75 are amended, and claims 23-25, 70, 73, 74, 76 and 84-87 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 75, 78, 79, 81-83, 85 and 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,025,896 to Hattori et al. (hereinafter "Hattori"); claims 1-10, 23-25, 36, 37, 42, 46-51, 54-69, 73, 74, 84 and 87 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,184,856 to Gordon, II et al. (hereinafter "Gordon"); claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of Gordon, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,287 to Palmer et al. (hereinafter "Palmer"); claims 52 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of Gordon, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,126,854 to Sheridan (hereinafter "Sheridan"); claims 38-41, 43-45, 77 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of Gordon, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,300,932 to Albert (hereinafter "Albert"); and claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hattori in view of Gordon, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,826,949 to Nakamura et al. (hereinafter "Nakamura").

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 12-15, 19, 20, 70-72 and 76 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to recite the features of claim 70. Additionally, claims 12, 15, 19, 20 and 71 are amended to place them into independent form and claim 75 is amended to recite the features of claim 76.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11, 16-18, 36-69, 75 and 77-83, and the objection to claims 12-15, 19, 20, 71 and 72 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20, 36-69, 71, 72, 75 and 77-83 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Randi B. Isaacs
Registration No. 56,046

JAO:RBI/brc

Date: October 19, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--